

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 15-23 and 28 were examined in the Office Action mailed September 21, 2006, while claims 10-14, 24-27 and 29 stand withdrawn pursuant to Election/Restriction Requirement.

Claims 3-4, 6, 8-9, 17-18, 20, 22-23 and 28 are noted to be allowable if amended into independent form. In order to advance these claims to issue, the Applicants have amended claims 3, 6, 17 and 20 into independent form, and canceled claims 1-2, 5, 7, 10-16, 19, 21, 24-27 and 29, without prejudice to the subject matter therein.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-4, 6, 8-9, 17-18, 20, 22-23 and 28 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims, is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.


If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Serial No. 10/687,938  
Attorney Docket No. 011235.52865US  
PATENT

Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #011235.52865US).

Respectfully submitted,

December 21, 2006



Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.  
Registration No. 40,625  
Mark H. Neblett  
Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844